

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1 1. A method for selecting a proxy server, said method
2 comprising:
3 identifying a plurality of proxy servers; and
4 automatically determining at least one of the proxy
5 servers to use when accessing a network.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 automatically determining further comprises:
3 testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy
4 servers; and
5 determining a highest speed.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 automatically determining further comprises:
3 setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy
4 server;
5 comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with
6 the minimum speed limit; and
7 testing each of the plurality of servers in response
8 to the speed for the selected proxy server
9 falling below the minimum speed limit.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 automatically determining further comprises:
3 receiving a destination address; and
4 comparing the destination address to a plurality of
5 network addresses, each of the network addresses
6 corresponding with a proxy server identifier.
- 1 5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

6. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
returning a default proxy server identifier in
response to the received destination address not
matching any of the network addresses.

7. The method as described in claim 4 wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

8. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
modifying a proxy configuration setting using the
selected proxy server identifier, the proxy
configuration setting identifying the proxy
server used by a client computer system.

9. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the identifying further comprises:
reading a proxy server identifier associated with each
of the proxy servers.

10. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the identifying further comprises:
connecting to a second computer system using a network; and
receiving a plurality of proxy server identifiers from the second computer system.

11. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

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2 determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality
3 of proxy servers;
4 setting a default proxy server address to the address
5 of the fastest proxy server;
6 receiving a destination address from a user;
7 locating the destination address in a proxy table, the
8 proxy table including one or more network
9 addresses and a proxy server identifier
10 corresponding with each network address;
11 selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding
12 with the network address in response to locating
13 the destination address in the proxy table; and
14 selecting the default proxy server address in response
15 to not locating the destination address in the
16 proxy table.

- 1 12. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the
5 processors;
6 a network interface connecting the information
7 handling system to a computer network; and
8 a proxy selection tool, the proxy selection tool
9 including:
10 means for reading a plurality of proxy server
11 identifiers;
12 means for evaluating at least one of the proxy
13 servers; and
14 means for selecting one of the plurality of proxy
15 server identifiers in response to the
16 evaluating.

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16. The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

21. A computer program product for selecting a proxy server, said computer program product comprising:
means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;
means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers; and
means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding to one of the evaluated proxy servers.
22. The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:
means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and
means for determining a highest speed.
23. The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:
means for setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;

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means for comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit; and means for testing each of the plurality of servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

24. The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises: means for receiving a destination address; and means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier.

25. The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising: means for returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

26. The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising: means for returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

27. The computer program product as described in claim 24 wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

28. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising:

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means for modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

29. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising:

~~means for determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;~~

means for setting a default proxy server address to
the address of the fastest proxy server;

means for receiving a destination address from a user;

means for locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more

network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;

means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and

means for selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.